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25 April 2024

THURSDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Big breakfast

Get over to the exhibit hall to have a networking breakfast with attendees to share tales from IPF 2024.

0830-0930, Exhibit Hall

Get briefed

Project developers, analysts, and public officials will discuss the path forward in the New York/New Jersey Bight and offer lessons to show how other states can help move the industry forward in this briefing.

0830-0930, Room 217

North Sea nous

Attendees at this session will learn about the Dutch approach to sustainably upscaling offshore wind and how it can be replicated globally.

0950-1020, Sea Change Stage, Exhibit Hall

Community watch

Join Community Offshore Wind as it shares an overview of its current activities, updates on what's coming down the pipeline, and gives insights on how to get involved in its projects and the offshore wind supply chain.

1030-1050, Sea Change Stage, Exhibit Hall

Goodbye and good luck

Celebrate the close of 2024 IPF with old and new connections with drinks, food, and a toast to the event's time in New Orleans at the closing reception. The date and location for IPF 2025 will be revealed.

1630-1730, Great Hall Pre-Function

Haaland lays out US five-year leasing plan

US Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland launched the US federal government's five-year schedule for offshore wind leasing at IPF 2024. **p2**

Dominion ready to kick off Coastal Virginia construction

Dominion Energy is primed to fire the starting gun on offshore construction at the 2.6GW Coastal Virginia wind farm. **p3**



Suppliers 'hold all the aces in procurement'

Power shift in the wind market means developers are now the ones competing to sign deals. **p4**

Fresh NY solicitation 'ready to revive 4GW of stalled wind farms'

New York's fifth offshore wind solicitation will provide a quick-fire route to save a trio of stalled Round 3 projects, IPF 2024 has heard.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) chief Doreen Harris said Corio, Total and Rise Light & Power's 1.3GW Attentive 1, RWE and National Grid Ventures' 1.3GW Community and Vineyard Offshore's 1.3GW Excelsior can enter the new auction.

Harris said New York Governor Kathy Hochul's decision to launch a request for information for a fifth solicitation round on Tuesday signalled a "turning point" for the projects provisionally selected in Round 3 last year.

Last week, NYSERDA declined to progress the schemes citing GE Vernova's ditching of an 18MW turbine as having a "material" effect on the wind farms. Harris said the agency had no choice but to take the move.

"When GE elected to change the platform after the



TURNING POINT: NYSERDA chief Doreen Harris

Photo: Oceanic Network

provisional awards had been granted, it meant that the foundation of the provisional award shifted," she said.

"When we learned how notably that impacted the entire group, we either could have run another competition under Round 3 or start over again."

Harris told reNEWS the wind farms "are very much viable projects" and are "interested to remain integrated within the New York ecosystem".

The announcement of the RFI for the fifth solicitation round was consciously timed to give some reassurance to the sector.

"We will be upfront about the situation with New York 3 and the reasons for that

decision, but we also want to clearly state that our commitment to offshore wind remains firm and to lay out the path forward in a timely manner."

Meanwhile, Harris said keeping the winners of future solicitation rounds private until a final contract is signed would give NYSERDA "a more robust posture in negotiating the contracts".

In its request for information on New York's fifth allocation round, the agency is asking for developer opinions on scrapping the previous routine of announcing provisional winners before contracts are finalised.

Harris said ditching the provisional announcements would allow NYSERDA to negotiate out of the public lens for the "most viable award announcement possible".

The agency is also seeking feedback on a coordinated US\$300m Major Component Supply Chain request for proposals, with responses due 21 May.

THE INTERVIEW reNEWS

Fugro Americas director Céline Gerson says a partnership approach is the key to overcoming vessel availability hurdles faced by the sector. **p5**

Louisiana ready to lead offshore drive

State's experience gained from oil & gas sector can power US wind aspirations, writes GNO Inc chief Michael Hecht **p6**

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Haaland lays out US five-year leasing plan

US Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland launched the US federal government's five-year schedule for offshore wind leasing at IPF 2024.

This year will see the start of rounds in the Central Atlantic, Gulf of Maine, Gulf of Mexico, and Oregon regions.

The following year a further Gulf of Mexico leasing process will take place, while in 2026 a second Central Atlantic tender will be held.

Another Gulf of Mexico round and the next New York Bight lease will come up in 2027 before acreage auctions in California, the Gulf of Maine, a US territory and Hawaii. Altogether the department will hold up to 12 separate leasing rounds across the country.

"It means developers and communities can expect predictability and transparency as they plan for future projects," Haaland told delegates.

Invenergy senior vice president of offshore wind Daniel Runyan told reNEWS he welcomed publication of



LAUNCH: Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland Photo: Oceanic Network

the schedule. There are some leasing areas the company is investigating, particularly those that would give it some economies of scale, he said.

The developer has two projects on the books currently, the 2.4GW Leading Light off the coast of New Jersey, and the roughly 2GW Even Keel floater off California.

The exact locations for new leasing are not yet clear but Runyan said it would be "logical" for the new California process to be near the existing area along the state's Central Coast.

The Bureau of Ocean

Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement also said on Wednesday they had finalised updated regulations for development on the US Outer Continental Shelf.

The new rules eliminate duplicative regulatory processes, and commits the former to publicly sharing a leasing schedule every two years.

Deployment of certain meteorological buoys will no longer require a site assessment plan and related BOEM approval under the new plan.

'Authorities must overhaul solicitation round process'

State governments need to design their solicitations and offtake arrangements with increased flexibility and simplicity, RWE's vice president of development for the eastern US Amanda Lefton told IPF attendees on Wednesday.

The former Bureau of Ocean Energy Management head, who joined the German developer last year, issued the call in direct reference to last week's decision by NYSERDA to pull the plug on

the 4GW Round 3 solicitation. Lefton said RWE and National Grid Ventures were both still "completely committed" to their joint venture, the 1.3GW Community Offshore project in the New York Bight.

"Undoubtedly, we have to be honest with ourselves that we are going to be met with a lot of challenges," Lefton added.

"We remain committed to working with New York and New Jersey on the future solicitations to ensure that



STRONG MESSAGE: RWE's Amanda Lefton Photo: Oceanic Network

offshore wind projects are successfully developed and built," she said.

Equinor highlights Empire Wind 1 supplier opportunities

There are ample opportunities for contractors to secure deals on Equinor's 816MW Empire Wind 1 project, IPF 2024 has heard.

The Norwegian company's head of procurement for the Americas Terje Strømme said while Tier 1 players are already in place there are plenty of Tier 2 and 3 spots

up for grabs. He told IPF attendees there are particular opportunities for women and minority-owned businesses operating in New York.

There are dozens of packages available for subcontracting for work on the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, Strømme said. Turbine supplier Vestas will

be hiring local personnel for onshore staging and for offshore work.

Strømme also said there are particular opportunities with Equinor's operations readiness team, such as port operations and customs clearance, as well as O&M for onshore and offshore substations.



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Dominion ready to kick off Coastal Virginia construction

Dominion Energy is primed to fire the starting gun on offshore construction at the giant 2.6GW Coastal Virginia wind farm, IPF 2024 has heard.

The company's offshore wind director GT Hollett told delegates a number of scopes are well progressed with the build programme getting underway.

DEME Offshore vessel Orion has set sail for Virginia after completing work on

the 882MW Moray West wind farm off Scotland and is expected at Portsmouth Marine Terminal in the next week or so, Hollett said.

It will load up six monopiles before heading to the project site to start hammering in steel.

The company aims to install 90 foundations at the 176-turbine project this summer and the remaining slated for next summer.

Dominion meanwhile

received a delivery of piles at Portsmouth this week for the offshore substation, said Hollett. He added the company is eyeing 2025 for the start of turbine installation on the project.

The operation will be tackled by the developer's Charybdis vessel from the middle of next year.

Hollett meanwhile added the company is keeping its eye on the Central Atlantic leasing process.



READY TO GO: GT Hollett

Photo: reNEWS

US offshore at 'inflection point'

The levelised cost of power for US offshore wind projects could return to pre-2021 levels by the end of the decade, the US Department of Energy has found.

Officials said the sector could achieve LCOE of \$84 per megawatt-hour for schemes reaching final investment decision in 2030 and beyond depending on macroeconomic conditions and by deploying a "critical mass" of 10GW-15GW either under construction or approved.

The department's newly published Pathways to Commercial Liftoff report concludes the market is at an "inflection point" since LCOE rose from approximately \$85/MWh to \$140/MWh between 2021-23, creating a spike in project cancellations.

As early movers have negotiated a "perfect storm" on CAPEX increases, supply chain constraints and schedule delays, it is now up to industry and federal and state governments to shape the market, said the study.

Study calls for Gulf wind training programmes

Developers need to fund specialised training programmes in Louisiana and the Gulf region to meet the growing demand for workers, according to a fresh study published in New Orleans.

The report from a consortium of researchers and policy groups is also calling on Louisiana's state

government to establish a procurement process for developers operating in the Gulf and set up an offshore wind-specific organisation to oversee the development of the sector in the region.

Those are among 18 recommendations the study makes for government, economic development

organisations, offshore wind developers, Tier 1 suppliers and the training sector.

"Designating a lead agency will help to create efficiencies in allocating funds, coordinating programme development, and more, allowing for a single contact within the industry," the report stated.

The study is published

by the Southeastern Wind Coalition, Greater New Orleans Inc and the Center for Planning Excellence, with research carried out by the Pew Charitable Trusts and global energy consultancy Xodus. It also identifies 458 companies in the state with the potential to supply the offshore wind sector.

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Suppliers 'hold all the aces in procurement'

Power shift in market means developers are now the ones competing to sign deals, writes **Michael Lee-Murphy**

Offshore developers must learn from "problem-solving" relationships with suppliers as the power dynamics of the market have shifted in the past year, according to the managing director of vessel operator Kalypso Energy Colin Smith.

Previously, suppliers had to compete with one another for business. However, Smith told reNEWS that is no longer the case.

"The tables have turned," said the man from Kalypso, which has just signed a letter of intent with Dutch shipbuilder Royal IHC to construct the first Jones Act-compliant cable lay vessel (CLV) for the US market.

"While all the contractors are still being asked to competitively tender, the contractors can now pick and choose what contracts they

tender. They are the ones calling the shots."

Smith said this has created a dynamic where developers are competing against one another for contractors, to the detriment of the growth of the industry. Rather than issuing conventional tenders for projects, developers should instead ask vessel owners about longer-term charters.

Suppliers could then commit to building vessels to respond to market needs. "That way, you're going to have better certainty in the market," Smith said.

It is into this dynamic Kalypso is to introduce a new Jones Act-compliant CLV, "filling a key gap in the nation's vessel capabilities".

"Cable installation and repair are critical but often overlooked functions for the offshore wind industry and the US must upgrade our



US FIRST: Kalypso has signed a letter of intent with Royal IHC to develop the first Jones-compliant CLV

Illustration: Kalypso

capabilities for state and federal deployment targets to be met," Oceanic Network vice president of state and federal policy John Begala said.

Kalypso is hoping to sign a shipyard agreement in the third quarter of this year and is targeting a market launch in 2028. The company is assessing shipyards in the Gulf of Mexico, along the east coast, and in the Great Lakes regions.

While many across the sector are talking about turbine and foundation installation vessels, a cable lay ship is an easier undertaking. There is a lot of experience in the US of building CLVs, Smith said.

"The CLV is an easier way to establish ourselves as a contractor to be working with developers," he added.

Smith said Royal IHC is a fully integrated contracting solution, providing design for the vessel, mission equipment, and the tools used on the back deck.

Kalypso is hoping to use the US as a launchpad.

"We won't have the history current contractors have," Smith said, adding his company seeks to be a "breath of fresh air in the market".

"We want to find the mutually beneficial solutions with developers." ■

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THE INTERVIEW reNEWS



Fugro Group Americas director **Céline Gerson** (left) says a partnership approach is the key to overcoming vessel availability hurdles faced by the offshore wind industry

Q What is Fugro's key message for IPF 2024 this week?

A We are focused on building strong, collaborative partnerships with our offshore wind clients. We recognise the economic and supply chain hurdles that offshore wind developers face, but also the immense value that high-quality, integrated geo-data solutions can bring to drive greater efficiency throughout the entire project life cycle.

With over 25 years of global experience in offshore wind – including 14 years in the US – we combine innovative technologies with consulting expertise to guide fast and informed decision-making that helps lower the levelised cost of energy and compress the timeline to construction.

Q What are the big challenges facing the vessel market in the US?

A The primary concern is vessel availability due to global competition for a limited number of resources.

Q How can the current vessel crunch be alleviated?

A Careful planning. This is where a partnership approach shines. The site assessment and concept design phase of an offshore wind project is a

data-intensive process. When parcelled out by season and/or discipline, it can take years to complete. We look at it holistically, combining metocean, geophysical, geotechnical, and environmental services into a single programme with on-call access to our consultants. This optimises vessel usage and can compress timelines by up to a year.

Q Are there any policy changes that need to be made by government?

A Partnership matters here. Government policies can play a key role in enhancing efficiency and sustainability for offshore wind. One example is the utilisation of uncrewed surface vessels (USVs) during site characterisation and subsea inspections.

This technology helps address vessel shortages while also reducing carbon emissions by up to 95%. However, the lack of a regulatory framework for operating USVs in the US limits their effective use at scale. We have discussed the need to establish such a framework with the government, drawing on past success with agencies in other regions, like the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Beyond USVs, broader policy focus is needed to decarbonise the maritime sector. The US has strong incentives for electric vehicles, but similar initiatives are lacking for vessels and green shipping. Fugro's global position is allowing us to lead in this area. We have set ambitious goals to decarbonise our fleet by 2035, and

recently achieved a major milestone with the Fugro Pioneer in the Netherlands.

This survey vessel is now ready to be equipped with methanol engines, a feat accomplished as part of a Fugro-led consortium called MENENS (Methanol as Energy Step Toward Emission-free Dutch Shipping) with a grant from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). Action like this from the US government would be powerful.

Q How will the 2024 US offshore sector differ from last year?

A East coast projects are coming to life, which is truly exciting. And the industry is now active on the west coast, tackling deeper waters with the promise of new floating wind technology.

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Welcome to New Orleans, IPF attendees. On behalf of Greater New Orleans Inc (GNO Inc), the regional economic development organisation for south-east Louisiana, and home of the GNOwind Alliance, we are truly excited to have Oceanic's 2024 International Partnering Forum (IPF) taking place in our backyard.

This year's IPF comes on the heels of an exciting new year for offshore wind in the US – especially here in the Gulf of Mexico. America not only saw its first commercial-scale offshore wind farm begin power delivery in New York, but new regional markets like the Gulf of Mexico have also officially entered the arena.

With a first auction in summer 2023 culminating in RWE's acquisition of a lease area off Lake Charles, two state-water offshore wind projects securing operating agreements by the State of Louisiana, and a second federal tender initiated just last month through the Gulf of Mexico Wind Proposed Sale Notice, it is safe to say Louisiana is offshore wind ready. For

Louisiana ready to lead offshore drive



State's experience gained from oil & gas sector can power US aspirations for wind sector, writes Greater New Orleans Inc president and chief executive **Michael Hecht** (left)

more than a century, the state has been a trailblazer in the energy field, primarily through offshore oil and gas industries. Today, we extend this legacy into offshore wind, leveraging our deep expertise and resilient workforce to spearhead developments in this emerging sector.

This entry into wind power is a natural progression of our essential role as an energy leader, which created generations of experience in offshore environments. These factors, as well as geographic advantages, rank Louisiana fourth in net wind energy potential by The National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Matched by offshore wind ambitions,

including Louisiana's goal to achieve 5GW by 2030, the state stands to greatly benefit from supporting the nation's objective of 30GW by 2030, and beyond.

Through the GNOwind Alliance, a 250-plus member-company initiative with a shared vision for Louisiana's offshore wind potential, GNO supports strategic investments in workforce development, robust public-private partnerships, and policy development so the state realises its potential as a global hub for offshore wind manufacturing and innovation.

The latest initiative is the Gulf Louisiana Offshore Wind EDA Tech Hub, which pairs state companies and research

institutions, alongside developers and OEMs, to advance technology solutions for lower-than-average wind resource markets as well as those prone to hurricanes.

As industry leaders gather in New Orleans for a week of networking, education, and exploration, we reaffirm our commitment to not only participate in but drive the energy evolution. By capitalising on our established strengths and embracing new opportunities, Louisiana will continue to shape the future of global energy.

Our own recent research found an impressive number of businesses and workers ready to expand on Louisiana's energy legacy

by adding offshore wind to the state's portfolio of energy development. Last year, GNO and RWE, one of the world's leading offshore wind developers, released a supplier database which featured over 120 state businesses ready to support a national offshore wind supply chain. Of those, 95% are small companies, and more than 40% have investment plans to capitalise on offshore wind opportunities.

Similarly, we are looking forward to an exciting announcement that expands upon Louisiana's potential in supporting offshore wind developments in the US – learn more about it at the Gulf of Mexico regional update breakfast Thursday morning at IPF.

Also, be sure to visit our staff and partners at Louisiana Future Energy and Louisiana Economic Development at Booth #837 in the exhibit hall and be sure to take advantage of the numerous tours and evening events for a taste of all New Orleans and south Louisiana has to offer.

Laissez the bon vent souffler. ■

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